MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Clashes in Beirut--Both Beirut radio and the Voice of Lebanon radio reported that violence flared up in Beirut over the weekend. The Voice of Lebanon alleged that Syrian and Palestinian forces renewed the clashes by firing on Lebanese Army positions, while a 19 April SANA report held the Phalangists responsible for violating the cease-fire.

Situation in Zahlah--According to Beirut radio, Zahlah remained calm and two convoys brought food to the town on 17 April. Voice of Lebanon reported the arrival of another convoy on the following day. On 17 April Beirut radio said that a source in the Arab Deterrent Forces denied that Syrian forces are imposing a blockade on Zahlah. He admitted, however, that some people have been prevented from entering the town but claimed no one has been prevented from leaving.

Shelling of Sidon--The southern city of Sidon was hit by 15 artillery shells on 19 April, Beirut radio reported, adding that 13 people were killed and more than 35 wounded by the attack. Following the shelling, Voice of Lebanon reported, armed gunmen burned down Sidon's Maronite bishopric and the Maronite and Roman Catholic churches. According to Beirut radio, Israeli artillery shelled Tyre on the morning of 20 April.

Kuwaiti Offer--KUNA, citing an interview by the Lebanese weekly MONDAY MORNING with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, reported that Kuwait has offered to host a roundtable conference of all parties involved in Lebanon in an effort to resolve the crisis there.

Haddad Hospitalized--Jerusalem radio reported that Crhistian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad has been hospitalized in Haifa suffering from exhaustion. According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, Haddad was wounded by a landmine planted by Palestinian guerrillas along the Israeli-Lebanese border strip.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Palestine National Council--Damascus radio reported that at its final session on 19 April the Palestine National Council (PNC) elected a 15-man PLO Executive Committee with Fatah leader Yasir 'Arafat as chairman. The committee includes two other Fatah members, Faruq Qaddumi and Mahmud 'Abbas. According to QNA, the committee also includes one representative each from As-Sa'iqah, the DPFLP, the PFLP-General Command and the Arab Liberation Front, as well as seven independent members. The PFLP, which withdrew from the committee in 1974, has returned with one representative. Earlier, the PNC had approved the recommendations of the military, financial and occupied homeland committees, Damascus radio and the Voice of Palestine radio reported. These include the formation of a unified command for the militia forces, the unification of Palestine liberation forces under one command and the escalation of the armed struggle against Israel. In addition, the work of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee is to continue on the condition that the PLO takes full responsibility for distributing funds for "support and steadfastness" in the occupied territory. Several speakers had called earlier for an end to the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. A higher council for occupied homeland affairs is also to be formed. According to Damascus radio, the final political statement is to be issued on 20 April.

'Arafat, Van der Klaauw Meeting--According to the Voice of Palestine radio, PLO Leader 'Arafat and a PLO delegation met in Damascus on 17 April with EC Council of Ministers Chairman Christoph van der Klaauw and his delegation. The radio said the two sides discussed the EC's Venice declaration on the Middle East problem, which the Palestinians said ignores the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and establish an independent state. The European countries must take steps toward recognizing both the PLO and the Palestinians' right to establish their own state, the PLO officials said. The radio added that the EC delegation "understood" the Palestinian demands.

According to the radio, Van der Klaauw said after the meeting that the time is not ripe for a European initiative on the Middle East. Before visiting Damascus, Van der Klaauw had held talks in Beirut with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Beirut radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Thatcher Visit--British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived on a 3-day official visit, SPA reported. The agency later said she was received by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Editorial Warns U.S.--A 17 April editorial in the daily AL-JAZIRAH, reviewed by SPA, cautioned the United States to consider carefully the possible effects of refusing to sell sophisticated arms to Saudi Arabia, pointing out that many other sources of supply are available to the Saudis.

Libya

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Algeria on 18 April and held talks with President Chadli Benjedid, Algiers radio reported. According to Tripoli radio, he told newsmen at the airport that the Arab countries must seriously reconsider supplying oil to the United States, "the real enemy which stands by and supports the Zionist camp." He also called for the expansion of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to include Mauritania, the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. According to Nouakchott radio, Al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Mauritania on 19 April for talks with Mauritanian leaders.

Iran

Nabavi Press Conference--In a press conference Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi said negotiations between Iran and the United States are moving forward and the United States has already handed over $3 billion of Iranian deposits that had been frozen after the U.S. hostages were taken in November 1979, Tehran radio reported. He added that more money will be delivered by 20 July and more results will be announced within the next few days. Nabavi also revealed that Iran is attempting to recover $56 million lost in a fraudulent arms deal. He said Iran had agreed to purchase arms from a private company and that Iran's Bank Melli was to pay the company in Paris after the Iranian charge d'affaires in Madrid had confirmed that the arms had been shipped. However, he said, the diplomat had approved the payment without seeing the shipping documents. He has been recalled to Tehran for questioning, the money has been frozen and a court is investigating the case, Nabavi added.

Allocation for Oil Imports--Tehran radio reported that during an 18 April meeting, the Council of Ministers decided to allocate $200 million to the National Iranian Oil Company for the purchase of kerosene, gas oil and engine oil abroad.

Mahdavi-Kani Reply to Bani-Sadr--Responding to a demand by President Abolahsan Bani-Sadr that Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani explain why byelections have not yet been held in those constituencies that have not elected Majlis deputies, Mahdavi-Kani said that the Majlis passed the necessary legislation to prepare for the elections and that Bani-Sadr must now take action so that it can be implemented, Tehran radio reported. Mahdavi-Kani, who is Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's representative on the three-man committee investigating differences among Iran's leaders, made his remarks after he and Shahabeddin Eshraqi, Bani-Sadr's representative on the committee, had met with Khomeyni. During their meeting, Mahdavi-Kani said, Khomeyni told them that the committee should investigate only those cases that might lead to tension among officials, The public prosecutor, the Majlis and other authorities are investigating other "offenses" and cases, Khomeyni said.

Clashes in Tehran--According to AFP, clashes broke out in Tehran on both 17 and 18 April. In the first incident, several people were injured when conservative Muslim extremists attacked members of the Marxist-Leninist People's Feda'i-yan who were leaving a memorial ceremony at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery. AFP reported that "security forces" broke up the confrontation.

Citing eyewitnesses, AFP said the 18 April incident occurred when revolution guards tried to prevent leftist mojahedin elements from selling their banned weekly publication. One person was injured and leftists demonstrated in protest for almost 2 hours.

Iraq

Iraq-USSR Treaty Anniversary--On 18 April the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Soviety in Baghdad celebrated the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Iraqi-Soviet friendship and cooepration treaty, INA reported. It added that the Soviet ambassador to Iraq made a speech at the gathering in which he praised the efforts of the United Nations, the Islamic Conference and tbe Nonaligned Movement to help resolve the Iran-Iraq conflict. According to INA, both the Soviet ambassador and Iraqi Revolution Command Council member 'Abd al-Fatah Amin pledged that the development of Iraqi-Soviet relations will continue. Another 18 april INA report said that an Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society delegation currently visiting Moscow met with the Soviet education minister, who is also chairman of the Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society.

Kurdish Threat--Citing a Unified Socialist Party of Kurdestan communique sent to Lebanese newspapers, AFP reported on 17 April that seven foreigners held by the Kurds since 31 January will not be released until the Iraqi Government releases 80 Kurdish prisoners. According to the Communique, the government agreed to the exchange but has not yet implemented it by releasing the Kurds.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Husayn Interview--In an interview with the London-based weekly AL-HAWADITH, cited by QNA on 17 April, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said that the return of the three Gulf islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa by Iran is one of the basic conditions for a solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict and that he has so informed the Islamic Conference good offices committee. The committee told him that Iran wants to form two committees, one to deal with Iraqi "rights" and another to handle the issue of the islands. Iraq has no objection to this, he said.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported continued exchanges of fire around Abadan and Khuninshahr during which it said the Abadan oil refinery caught fire. Tehran radio also said Iraqi MiG's bombed Paveh on 18 April. Iraqi General Command communiques, carried by INA and Baghdad radio, confirmed the radi on Paveh, and also claimed that Iraqi aircraft bombed military targets in Dezful and the Gilan-e Gharb and Shush regions. Tehran radio also reported clashes between ground forces in the Shush and Karkheh areas in which it claimed more than 200 Iraqi troops were killed.

Afghanistan

Talks with UN Envoy--Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN special representative on Afghanistan, left Kabul on 17 April after 3 days of talks with Afghan officials, Kabul radio reported. According to an earlier Kabul radio report, while in Kabul, De Cuellar met with President Babrak Karmal and Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost. Citing a well-informed source in Islamabad, AFP reported that during the talks, Karmal recognized the existence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, who had been viewed previously as bandits or traitors. He also confirmed Afghanistan's rejection of the UN resolution condemning Soviet intervention in his country, but he said Afghanistan wants to continue a dialogue with the United Nations in an effort to open negotiations with Iran and Pakistan.

Hijack Attempt Foiled--A security forces announcement broadcast by Kabul radio said that on 15 April security forces arrested three armed people who had boarded an Afghan airlines plane in Qandahar with the intention of hijacking it to Quetta, Pakistan. The three are members of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, based in Peshawar, the statement said, and had received military training and arms there. Their organization receives aid from the United States, the PRC and the "reactionary petrodollar countries," it added. This incident, according to the statement, is evidence to show that Afghanistan does not protect criminals and terrorists and did not endanger the lives of hostages on board a Pakistani airliner that was hijacked to Kabul last month.

Pakistan

Murtaza Bhutto Interview--Murtaza Bhutto, son of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, told a BBC World Service correspondent that his organization, Al-Zulfiqar, was responsible for hijacking a Pakistani airliner to Kabul and Damascus last month. He denied any prior knowledge of the hijacking, however, although he is secretary general of the organization. He also said that Al-Zulfiqar's headquarters is in Pakistan, not Kabul, as has been reported.

Shahi Leaves for U.S.--Foreign Minister Agha Shahi left Karachi on 18 April for talks in Washington with Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Karachi radio reported. The previous day he had told a press conference in Islamabad, reported by Karachi radio, that Pakistan wants military equipment from the United States on the same terms as those the Soviet Union applies to arms sales to India. However, the question of sales of military equipment will not influence the foreign policy Pakistan has adopted over the past few years, he added. He also denied that Paksitan has asked the United States to station naval forces in Pakistan.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 075 *20 April 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal, Generals Visit Jalalabad 19 Apr C 1
Karmal Cables Greetings to Foreign Leaders C 2
Message to Al-Asad C 2
Message to Castro C 2
Message to Heng Samrin C 2
Ziray, Keshtmand Visit Soviet Youth Exhibit C 2
Foreign Minister Dost, Delegation Leave for Prague C 3
Ratebzad Speaks at Friendship Session in Moscow C 3
Agriculture Minister Momand Leaves for Rome C 3
De Cuellar Departs Kabul After Talks C 4
Security Forces Statement on Foiled Hijacking C 4
AFP: Secret Police Official Killed for Revenge C 5
AFP: Soviet Division Reinforces Qandahar Attack C 5
AFP: Jaundice Epidemic Among Soviets in Kabul C 5

INDIA

UK Prime Minister Ends Official Visit E 1
Indian TV Interviews Thatcher E 1
Thatcher on Talks With Gandhi E 1
Thatcher Holds Press Conference E 1
Addresses Bombay Industrialists E 2
Leaves Bombay for Saudi Arabia E 2
Gandhi Rules Out Change in Parliamentary System E 2
Gandhi Warns People of 'Hovering War Clouds' E 3
Desai Strongly Defends U.S. Arming of Pakistan E 3
Spokesman Notes U.S. Nuclear Fuel Report E 4
Spent Fuel To Be Reprocessed at Tarapore E 4
Commerce Minister Discusses U.S. Protectionism E 4
First Joint Rocket Test With FRG Successful E 4

PAKISTAN

Agha Shahi Holds News Conference, Leaves for U.S. F 1
Question on India F 1
More on India, U.S. F 1
Departure for U.S. F 2
Defense Minister: Nonaligned Status Unchanged F 3
Indian Position on Arms Purchases Attacked F 3
Saudi Foreign Minister Holds Press Conference F 3
BBC Interviews Murtaza Bhutto on Terrorist Acts F 3

IRAN

$200 Million Allocated for Purchase of Foreign Oil I 1
Nabavi on Imports, U.S. Assets, Other Topics I 1
More on Oil Imports, Trade I 2
More on Frozen Assets I 3
Judges for Panel on U.S. Meet Algerian Officials I 3
Leaders Issue Messages to Soldiers on Army Day I 4
Bani-Sadr Message I 4
Raja'i Message I 5
Rabbani Shirazi Speech I 5
Guards Corps Congratulates Army I 6
Army Replies to Khomeyni Army Day Message I 6
Mahdavi-Kani Meets Khomeyni, Comments on Talks I 7
Khomeyni Receives Golpayegan Ulema, Paveh Citizens I 7
Raja'i Chairs 19 Apr Security Council Session I 8
Majlis Deputy Speaks on U.S., Iraqi 'Plots' I 8
Bani-Sadr Departs on Khuzestan Inspection Tour I 8
Meeting on Operations I 8
Leftists Reportedly Raid IRP District Office I 9
AFP: Leftists, Hezbollahi Clash in Tehran 17 Apr I 9
18 Apr Clash I 9
AFP: Several Injured in Tehran Housing Dispute I 10
Yazdi Warns Journalists Against Wrongdoings I 10
Ban on Publication of MIZAN Reportedly Lifted I 10

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Ziaur Rahman's Katmandu Press Conference P 1
King Birendra Receives Pakistani, Saudi Officials P 2
Meeting With Riaz Peracha P 2
Al-Faysal Granted Audience P 2
Saudi Foreign Minister Departs Katmandu 18 Apr P 2

SRI LANKA

Saudi Foreign Minister Meets With Hameed P 3

KARMAL, GENERALS VISIT JALALABAD 19 APR

LD192206 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister, arrived in Jalalabad this morning on a visit to Nangarhar Province and was warmly welcomed at the airport by Colonel Khalilollah, member of the party Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council and commander of the Central Corps; Dr Khodadad Basharmal, secretary of the party provincial committee; Qadir Hutak, governor; Qader Miakhel, Nangarhar's military commander; party activists and the representatives of the noble people and officials of the province's central offices. A number of Pioneers presented Babrak Karmal with bouquets of flowers, which he graciously accepted.

After exchanging greetings with those who had welcomed him, Babrak Karmal went to military headquarters by motorcade. After inspecting the honor guard, Babrak Karmal was warmly welcomed by the officers, NCO's and soldiers. The prime minister then visited the dormatories and classrooms and other facilities of the soldiers 11th Division of Nangarhar Province.

Babrak Karmal later took part in a grand meeting which was held in his honor by the officers, NCO's and soldiers. At the meeting, Babrak Karmal made a revolutionary and comprehensive speech in which he emphasized the role of the officers, NCO's and the heroic, courageous and brave soldiers in safeguarding our beloved fatherland, the proud, free and independent Afghanistan, and in defending the liberating, popular revolution.

At the end of his speech, a number of officers, NCO's and soldiers, on behalf of the other heroes and guardians of the homeland and revolution, pledged self-sacrifice for the aspirations of the party and the government and promised that they would defend the homeland, revolution, territorial integrity and national independence of the country with all of their strength and would cleanse the motherland of the filth of the seditious enemies of the people, homeland and revolution, those servants of imperialism.

At the meeting, Babrak Karmal distributed a number of medals, awarded by the Revolution Council Presidium, to those officers. NCO's and soldiers who have heroically struggled against the enemy in order to defend the honor of the homeland and safeguard the gains of the revolution. Karmal wished them further successes.

Later Babrak Karmal took part in an unprecedented mass meeting held in his honor by the elders, representatives of the various tribes of the province, Jalalabad citizens and party activists at the Jamhuriat Garden. The participants welcomed Babrak Karmal with the most patriotic sentiments. At this meeting, too, Karmal made a statement which was welcomed by the audience with revolutionary zeal. A number of the elders, on behalf of the noble people of Nangarhar Province, made speeches in support of Karmal's statement. They expressed the loyalty of the people of Nangarhar to their revolutionary government and, pledging their readiness to realize the aspirations of the party and government, which are the guarantors of the well-being and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan and the progress and development of the free and independent homeland, Afghanistan, said: The people of this province will cooperate with their party and government forever and will never be deceived by the traitors to the homeland and the revolution. They will fight courageously to eliminate the enemies of the homeland, people and revolution.

Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi', member of the party Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council and minister of national defense; Brig Gen Gol Aqa, member of the Central Committee, member of the DRA Revolution Council Presidium and general director of the Armed Forces Political Affairs department; Maj Gen Baba Jan, chief of general staff; and Brig Gen Nazar Mohammad, member of the party Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council and commander of the air force and air defense, accompanied Karmal on the visit. Karmal and his entourage returned to Kabul at about 1700.

KARMAL CABLES GREETINGS TO FOREIGN LEADERS

Message to Al-Asad

LD190659 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Kabul, 18 Apr (BAKHTAR)--Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA CC, president of the RC [Revolution Council] and prime minister of the DRA has sent a congratulatory message to Damascus addressed to Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic on the occasion of Syrian's "National Day". The message expresses hope for further expansion of the traditional friendly relations for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries and the world peace.

Message to Castro

LD172350 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central ommittee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, has sent a congratulatory telegram to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Cuban Communist Party. In addition to conveying warm and sincere comradely congratulations, the telegram also expressed the wish for further victories for the heroic people of Cuba, this island of hope and freedom in Latin America.

Message to Heng Samrin

LD182326 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal has sent a congratulatory telegram to Heng Samrin, president of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation and president of the Revolutionary Council, on the occasion of Kampuchea's National Day. In addition to congratulating the Kampuchean people on their glorious victories in building a new, developed and blossoming society, chairman Babrak Karmal expressed confidence that further consolidation and development of friendly relations and fraternal cooperation between the DRA and the People's Republic of Kampuchea will benefit the peoples of both countries and peace in the world.

ZIRAY, KESHTMAND VISIT SOVIET YOUTH EXHIBIT

LD192150 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Excerpts] An exhibit on the life and activity of Soviet youth opened at Kabul Nandare Hall this afternoon to mark the third anniversary of the Sawr Revolution.

Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat and Politburo and member of the Revolution Council Presidium; Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the party Central Committee Politburo, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister; some members of the party Central Committee and of the Revolution Council; secretaries and a number of the members of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan and/or the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan; president of the Central Council of Afghan Trade Unions; and the ambassador and some members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul took part in the ceremony opening the exhibit.

At the exhibit, which will be held for 2 weeks, photographs, drawings and other articles, including handicrafts, from Soviet Azerbaijan which are indicative of the progress in the fields of culture, education and sociopolitical and technical areas since the Great October Revolution are on display.

FOREIGN MINISTER DOST, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR PRAGUE

LD191522 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mohammad Dost left for Prague today leading an Afghan delegation on a friendly, official visit to the CSSR. Members of the DRA Council of Ministers, high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul and the charge d'affaires of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Kabul bade farewell to Shah Mohammad Dost and his entourage at the Kabul Internal Airport.

In an interview with a BAKHTAR correspondent before his departure for Prague, the minister for foreign affairs said: Relations between Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia are very friendly and I am completely confident that this visit by the DRA delegation will play a valuable role in the further strengthening of these relations. The delegation will hold a series of talks with Czechoslovak authorities concerning the further expansion of cooperation between the two countries. Mohammad Sakhi Daneshjo, general director of the Foreign Ministry Political Department, is also a member of the delegation.

RATEBZAD SPEAKS AT FRIENDSHIP SESSION IN MOSCOW

LD172324 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, delivered a comprehensive speech at the USSR Friendship Society session with foreign countries which is currently being held in Moscow. Her speech was welcomed with favor by the participants of the meeting. Dr Ratebzad recently departed for the USSR to attend this meeting.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MOMAND LEAVES FOR ROME

LD200624 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Kabul, 19 Apr (BAKHTAR)--Fazel Rahim Momand, minister of agriculture and land reforms, heading a delegation left Kabul for Rome today. The delegation will participate at the15th regional conference of the World Food and Agricultural Organization for the Near East countries scheduled to be held there.

In an interview at Kabul airport he said: The purpose of this conference which is going to be held at the ministerial level for the participating countries, will study the present and future world agricultural and food programmes for the countries of the region. At the end of conference, he will make a friendly official visit to the USSR at the invitation of the agriculture minister of that fraternal country for seeing the agriculture projects in that country.

DE CUELLAR DEPARTS KABUL AFTER TALKS

LD171742 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN deputy general secretary for political affairs, who came to Kabul 2 days ago at the head of a delegation, left Kabul today after a series of talks with Afghan officials.

Mohammad Sakhe Daneshjo, director general for political affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, high-ranking officials of this ministry, and the head of the UN Development Program in Afghanistan bade the delegation farewell at Kabul International Airport.

SECURITY FORCES STATEMENT ON FOILED HIJACKING

LD181810 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Announcement issued by the security forces of the DRA--date not given]

[Text] International imperialism, Chinese chauvinism and reactionary propaganda sources in the region have been spreading outlandish propaganda against the DRA to the effect that Afghanistan has been protecting criminals and terrorists and, in contradiction to international law, endangered the lives of the hostages on the hijacked Pakistani plane. There is irrefutable evidence which disproves these empty claims.

On 15 April at Qandahar International Airport, a group of armed individuals tried to board a Bakhtar Afghan Airlines plane which was scheduled to fly from Qandahar to Kabul in order to divert it to Quetta. This attempt was foiled by the security forces at Qandahar International Airport and the individuals involved were arrested.

During the preliminary interrogations, it was ascertained that this terrorist cell comprised two men and a woman. They tried to take bombs and arms inside the plane to be used to force the pilot and crew to change course and land it in Quetta. Due to the alertness of the personnel whose job it is to supervise airport operations and ensure passenger safety, this terrorist group was arrested.

One of the security men noticed the nervous behavior of a female passenger who had taken something out of her handbag and hid it under her clothes. The official was suspicious and during a subsequent body search uncovered some wires which were part of a bomb. Two of this girl's colleagues, who were carrying four pistols and two bombs, were also arrested. According to the explanations given by the arrested, the plan for the hijacking was formulated in Peshawar in the home of Burhanuddin Rabbani. The terrorists had also received their military training and instructions and obtained arms in Peshawar. As is known, Burhanuddin Rabbani is the leader of one of the counterrevolutionary organizations, the so-called Islamic Society of Afghanistan, a criminal organization of killers and looters that is perpetrating crimes against the heroic people of Afghanistan and is receiving cash and materiel assistance from the United States, Chinese hegemonism and the reactionary petrodollar countries. It had the support of (?Ronald Reagan), the so-called defender of [words indistinct]. Moreover, the terrorists said that Burhanuddin Rabbani had arranged for a special guide to accompany them from Peshawar to Qandahar. This guide has also been arrested. According to the terrorists, if they had succeeded in this base action they would have been warmly welcomed in Quetta by Pakistani officials, foreign news agency reporters and Pakistani radio and television.

According to the terrorists' confessions, (Burhanuddin Rabani) promised them that he himself along with the Pakistani authorities would arrange for their demands to be met. The interrogation of the terrorists is continuing and its results will be brought to the attention of the beloved countrymen in the near future.

AFP: SECRET POLICE OFFICIAL KILLED FOR REVENGE

BK191048 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 19 Apr (AFP)--The deputy chief of the Afghan secret police, Brigadier Ghulam Sakhi Atal, was shot dead in Kabul on Tuesday [14 April] by a rebel group who avenged the death of a prominent rebel leader, tortured and executed by Birg. Ghulam Sakhi last year, reports reaching here today from the Afghan capital said. The reports from credible independent sources said the brigadier had identified and arrested Abdul Majid Kalakani, popularly known as the Afghan Robin Hood in Kabul on February 28 last year. It was Abdul Majid's group--SAMA--the Organisation for the Liberation of the People of Afghanistan, which played a leading role in paralysing the Afghan capital for more than a week until it was crushed by Soviet troops, tanks and helicopters.

Today's reports, quoting eye witnesses, said that the brigadier's jeep was attacked by a group of Afghans who came in two private cars near the Habibia school. They opened fire from both sides and within seconds, the bullet-ridden body of the brigadier fell from the jeep. After a few years [as received], another body fell from the jeep and the vehicle bumped to a stop after hitting the pavement. The second man was identified as Pachagul, but his standing in the KHAD was not known by the sources. Soon after the incident, the area was cordoned off by Afghan and Soviet troops and a house-to-house search was conducted; it was not known how many were rounded up.

AFP: SOVIET DIVISION REINFORCES QANDAHAR ATTACK

BK191335 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Islamabad, 19 Apr (AFP)--A Soviet division newly-arrived in Afghanistan is heading for the city of Qandahar, where Moslem rebels have been holding out for more than a week against a Soviet offensive, the resistance news agency AFGHAN PRESS reported here today. The agency said fierce fighting was going on around Qandahar's main business district and that yesterday smoke from fires could be seen rising from the roofs in various parts of the city. Mortar duels were also reported yesterday. Soviet helicopters had flown low over Qandahar but did not seem to have dropped bombs, the agency said. It described the reinforcing division as having left Kabul last Tuesday and consisting of 600 tanks and other armored vehicles. A total of 60 helicopters were surveying the road to prevent ambushes.

AFP: JAUNDICE EPIDEMIC AMONG SOVIETS IN KABUL

BK200814 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Apr (AFP)--Jaundice has broken out in epidemic form in various Soviet Army garrisons in Kabul, reports from the Afghan capital quoting Afghan doctors said today. The first case was reported about a month ago and now the situation has assumed a serious proportion, the reports from independent sources said. In a single Soviet Army hospital with 400 beds, behind the United States Embassy, 50 cases of jaundice has been reported, the reports said. Afghan doctors said at least 400 Soviet soldiers were affected by the disease in which there is yellowing of skin and eyes and in rare cases seeing objects as yellow.

UK PRIME MINISTER ENDS OFFICIAL VISIT

Indian TV Interviews Thatcher

BK171639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Interviewed on Delhi Doordarsan [television], Mrs Thatcher reiterated that the United States was helping Pakistan to defend itself against what she called the possibility of a Soviet threat on Afghan borders. In a 30-minute interview, she categorically stated that there is no tension in relations between India and her country.

Mrs Thatcher claimed that half a million Indians with permanent citizenship would not be affected by the British nationality bill. She described as unfortunate the recent riots in Brixton. Apart from this sudden flareup, there is no deep racial trouble in the country, she observed.

Mrs Thatcher, accompanied by her husband Denis Thatcher and daughter Carol, has since arrived in Bombay. Maharashtra Governor L.P. Mehra and Chief Minister Antulay were among those who received her at the airport. Immediately after her arrival, Mrs Thatcher laid the foundation stone of a Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan Institute of Management and Research at Andheri in northwest Bombay.

Thatcher on Talks With Gandhi

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Excerpts] British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher has described her talks with Indian leaders on major international and bilateral issues as very useful. These, she said, have deepened their understanding of each other's major concerns and reaffirmed their closeness of relations. In a brief statement at the Delhi airport before her departure for Bombay this afternoon, the British prime minister said the discussions she had with the Indian leaders have brought the two countries closer. There may be differences but there is understanding and when there is a [word indistinct] approach there is fuller cooperation.

The British prime minister said she has been enormously impressed by the way India is courageously facing various problems under the guidance of Mrs Gandhi. She expressed her belief that the documents signed between the two countries during her visit would make a major contribution in the achievements of India's goals.

Thatcher Holds Press Conference

BK171309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher has strongly defended the U.S. decision to induct sophisticated arms into Pakistan in a big way. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, she said every country has the right to defend its borders and its people. She parried direct questions about U.S. arms having been used against India by Pakistan in the past, but she pointed out that India itself has been giving priority to its defense requirements. She urged both India and Pakistan to strive in every possible way to improve mutual relations.

The British prime minister categorically ruled out military intervention to resolve the Afghan problem. She said everything possible must be done through diplomatic channels and forums like the Nonaligned Movement, the Commonwealth and the UN to bring to bear international opinion on the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Answering a spate of questions on the controversial British nationality bill, Mrs Thatcher maintained that every country has the right to decide its citizenship. She made it clear that she did not propose to modify the bill in any of its vital aspects. She asserted that no racial considerations are involved as has been widely complained.

The British prime minister said she was highly satisfied with the talks with Mrs Gandhi. She spoke of their great mutual regard and said they had a greater and (?clearer) understanding of each other's point of view. She said both of them want peace, stability and reduction of arms.

Mrs Thatcher described the Indian Ocean as a very sensitive area and stressed the utmost need to ensure free navigation through it. She ruled out the return of Diego Garcia to Mauritius. She said relevant agreements provide that Britain can retain it as long as it requires it for its defense needs.

In reply to a question, Mrs Thatcher said the Jaguar deal was hardly mentioned in her talks with Mrs Gandhi. It is enshrined in a contract which stipulates a notice of termination. So far, she had not received any such notice.

Mrs Thatcher was accorded a warm send off when she left New Delhi this afternoon for Bombay after a 3-day stay in the capital. Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, her Cabinet colleagues and a large number of other dignitaries, including members of the diplomatic corps, saw her off at the airport.

Addresses Bombay Industrialists

BK181245 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 18 Apr (AFP)--British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, winding up her last public function in India, today said Britain would welcome an increase in imports from India and would ease restrictions as far as possible on the entry of Indian manufactured goods.

Addressing Indian industrialists in Bombay at a luncheon meeting, Mrs Thatcher pointed out that trade between India and Britain during 1980 amounted to about RS 15,630 million (about U.S. $1,950 million), which she termed "an impressive basis for expansion." Noting that the "potential is great" for boosting trade, she said some restrictions on Indian imports into Britain existed because "the (?industries) in question simply could not cope with any more competition from abroad."

Leaves Bombay for Saudi Arabia

BK190741 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher left Bombay today for Saudi Arabia at the end of her official visit to India. Mrs Thatcher said before leaving that she would carry fond memories of her visit to India.

GANDHI RULES OUT CHANGE IN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

BK191309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has ruled out the possibility of changing the present parliamentary system of government. She said there is, however, scope for improving it to give social and economic justice to the poor. Mrs Gandhi was speaking at a function to inaugurate the new council hall of the Maharashtra legislature in Bombay today.

The prime minister urged the people and political parties in the country to make the roots of democracy stronger. She said: The country has a high tradition of democracy and it is now our responsibility to make it stronger. It is a misnomer to suppose that democracy flourishes only when the people are highly educated and rich. The common man in the country has proved that he understands the problems and politics in the country. It is important that democracy serves the cause of the poor and the downtrodden, she added.

Referring to the current debate going on in the country about the forms of democracy, she pointed out that there are no two nations in the world where the form of democracy is identical.

The prime minister said that the legislature, executive and judiciary had supplementary roles in a democratic setup and should work in close cooperation with one another.

Mrs Gandhi said democracy and violence cannot go together. It is imperative for the opposition to extend its cooperation to the government.

Mrs Gandhi was greeted with loud applause when she presented the first copy of the souvenir brought out for the inaugural function to Leader of the Opposition in the Mahrashtra Assembly Sart Pawar. State Chief Minister A.R. Antulay presided over the function.

GANDHI WARNS PEOPLE OF 'HOVERING WAR CLOUDS'

BK181630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi today urged the people to develop a spirit of compassion and self-confidence. At two separate public functions in Bombay, she called for a change in society's attitude toward our fellowmen and even toward animals. Mrs Gandhi was speaking at the silver jubilee functions of two prominent voluntary organizations in the city where she arrived this morning on a 2-day visit.

Outside the airport earlier, where she was given a rousing reception, Mrs Gandhi told the gathering that the nation today's passing through difficult times and there is a need for disclipine, unity and a secular as well as nonsectarian approach.

Mrs Gandhi cautioned the people against the hovering war clouds while assuring them that the armed forces are geared up to ward off any external threat. She said it is not the armed forces alone that defend the country but the whole nation has to be involved in maintaining a vigil for freedom. The country expects this from all its inhabitants regardless of their caste, religion and occupation, she added.

DESAI STRONGLY DEFENDS U.S. ARMING OF PAKISTAN

BK191137 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] New Delhi, 19 Apr (AFP)--Former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai has strongly defended United States arming of Pakistan, pleading that Islamabad faced a direct threat from the Soviet Union.

"After swallowing Afghanistan, the next Russian move could be an aggression on Pakistan... and Pakistan has the right to import arms for self-defence," Mrs. Desai, who ruled the country 1977-79, said in an interview published in VRITTAVIDYA, a journal edited by the students of the Department of Journalism in Poona.

Mr. Desai suggested that in the event of such an aggression, Pakistan would deserve friendly support from India to fight against the Soviet Union.

SPOKESMAN NOTES U.S. NUCLEAR FUEL REPORT

BK190706 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] In Washington, the Reagan administration is reported to have indicated to Indian officials that it prefers to terminate the agreement for the supply of enriched nuclear fuel to the Tarapore atomic plant. However, there is no confirmation of this report either in New Delhi or from Indian official sources in Washington.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that India has taken note of press reports on the U.S.' unilateral intentions, but he said there is no official confirmation.

SPENT FUEL TO BE REPROCESSED AT TARAPORE

BK181525 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Apr (AFP)--The Indian Department of Atmoic Energy (DAE) has announced that it will reprocess the spent fuel from its power reactors to recover plutonium. The DAE's annual report for the year April 1980 to March 1981, released here today, said the processing is likely to be taken up at the reprocessing plant at Tarapore near Bombay after the completion of a trial run now in progress. "Reprocessing of power reactor fuel is likely to be taken up after this trial run," the report added. It said that the plant's performance has been satisfactory.

COMMERCE MINISTER DISCUSSES U.S. PROTECTIONISM

BK200852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] India has asked the United States to observe international trade norms. Opening a workshop on India-U.S. trade and industrial cooperation in New Delhi, the commerce minister pointed out that the U.S. protectionist measures created a climate of uncertainty inhibiting long-term promotional measures for trade with that country. Mr Pranab Mukherjee said the main problem before developing countries like India is to increase their exports and earn the much-needed foreign exchange to meet their import bills of petroleum products.

In his key-note address, Chairman of the Economic Administration Reforms Commission L.K. Jha suggested that India should undertake a program to reach American markets by setting up new lines of production using American capital and marketing techniques.

The workshop has been organized by the Engineering Export Promotion Council. Its chairman, G.D. Shah, appreciated the government's decision on exports and hoped that administrative machinery will be geared up.

FIRST JOINT ROCKET TEST WITH FRG SUCCESSFUL

BK191117 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] The first test flight of an Indian-made rocket was successfully launched jointly by India and the Federal Republic of Germany. The rocket, which carried the payload of both the countries, reached an altitude of about 130 kilometers. The launching was conducted from the Thumba rocket launching station in Trivandrum. Scientists said that the large amount of data collected from the rocket is being analyzed now. The test flight is part of the collaboration program of the Indian space research organization and the FRG space agency. The main objective of the joint flight is to develop modern technology and sensing devices in the determination and correction of the altitude of satellites.

AGHA SHAHI HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE, LEAVES FOR U.S.

Question on India

BK171148 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has described as unwarranted and gratuitious the statements made by the Indian prime minister and the external affairs minister over the past 3 weeks raising the specter of the arms Pakistan is to receive posing a danger to India and that Pakistan is being [words indistinct] to something. He told a news conference in Islamabad today that there is also no valid reason for the declaration of the Indian foreign minister that the process of normalization was in jeopardy.

Referring to the mission of Dr Waldheim's special representative on Afghanistan, the foreign minister said he would hold further talks with him. Answering a question he reiterated that Pakistan did not want to become a conduit for the supply of arms to the Afghan mojahedin. Replying to question, he said the Kabul authorities had made a request for the return of the tank which had recently been brought to Pakistan by its commander. He said it was being considered by the government.

About the possibility of Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth, Agha Shahi said that successive prime ministers of Britain, Australia and Canada and several other countries are keen to see Pakistan returned to the Commonwealth. He said if such an invitation is made by all members of the Commonwealth, it would be favorably considered by Pakistan.

More on India, U.S.

BK171651 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi has described as irrational and baseless the statements by the Indian prime minister and her foreign minister who made an outcry that Pakistan has heavily armed itself and thereby created a danger for India and that Pakistan is being included as part of a bigger scheme. He told a news conference in Islamabad today that there is no justification in the Indian external affairs minister's statement that the process of normalization of relations has been endangered. He said that the statements of Indian leaders have created artifical crisis atmosphere in bilateral relations.

Agha Shahi said that it is beyond comprehension that Pakistan, which is a small country in comparison to India, could be a danger to India. India is a much larger country than Pakistan in area, population, resources and industrial and military power. He regretted that India has launched a campaign both inside and outside the country against the possible acquisition of certain defense equipment by Pakistan, while India itself has recently concluded agreements for the purchase of the latest weapons from the Soviet Union and certain West European countries. The estimated cost of these weapons, even at the concessional rate, is about $10 billion. Agha Shahi said that Pakistan has never challenged India's right to acquire these new arms, although it is deeply concerned that a country, which already has large scale ordinance factories more than sufficient for its defense requirements, has received such large amounts of arms from other countries. Under the circumstances, the outcry unleashed in Indian Government quarters against Pakistan's attempts to replace outdated weapons has no justification.

Agha Shahi said that he is to visit the United States later this month to hold talks with the clear idea of developing relations between Pakistan and the United States on a new and lasting basis.

He said the relations between the two countries should not be limited to aid only, but Pakistan's relations with the Islamic countries and the Nonaligned Movement should also be kept in view in this regard.

In reply to a question he said Pakistan wants the United States to provide it with military equipment on the same terms as the Soviet Union has applied to sales to India; however, he said he did not know to what extent this would be possible for the United States, in view of legal and constitutional modalities. He stressed that his talks in Washington will be of an informative nature. He said that the purchase of military equipment will have no effect on the foreign policy Pakistan has adopted during the past few years. In reply to a question, he said his talks in Washington will have no relation to military arrangements in the region. He said that so far as he knows there is no proposal for such arrangements and such arrangements have not been contemplated.

Answering a question on a possible role for Pakistan in the security of the Gulf region he said that this is the responsibility of Gulf countries alone. Agha Shai described as baseless newspaper reports that Pakistan had asked the United States to station three naval units in Pakistan for the security of the Gulf region. He said that Pakistan and India have been holding regular discussions for the sake of avoiding misunderstanding and to continue the process of developing bilateral relations. Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Pakistan next month will provide another opportunity to continue these discussions. The foreign minister reiterated that so far as Pakistan is concerned it will continue efforts to establish normal and good neighbor relations with India and to stabilize them. The Simla Agreement will be a vital part of its policy.

The foreign minister said that the special representative of the UN Secretary General, who arrived in Islamabad from Kabul today, will later proceed to Tehran. He said that talks in this connection will continue for few days.

Answering a question he said that Iran has sent a reply to the Islamic ummah peace committee's new peace proposal and that the Iraqi reply to this is awaited.

Departure for U.S.

BK180617 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi left Karachi for Washington early this morning to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Answering a question by newsmen about a forthcoming meeting of foreign secretaries of six South Asian countries [India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan] in Colombo, he said the objective of the meeting is to identify sectors for technical cooperation. He said, however, that we do not feel that there is any basis for linking this cooperation with military and security affairs. Agha Shahi said that on principle there could be no objection to regional cooperation, but to achieve this objective it is necessary to have a similar stand on major international issues influencing the region and a shared perception of interests. Answering another question, the foreign minister said he does not feel that conditions are conducive for such a meeting to be held on a political plane.

DEFENSE MINISTER: NONALIGNED STATUS UNCHANGED

BK190147 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur told newsmen in Karachi today that Pakistan will not make any agreement with other countries which could adversely affect its nonaligned status. He said there is a tendency in India for objections to be raised even if Pakistan did something to defend itself in a critical situation. Pakistan has not been aggressive toward any other country, but it has the right to defend itself. The defense minister met a number of delegations and private individuals who called on him and discussed their problems.

INDIAN POSITION ON ARMS PURCHASES ATTACKED

BK171637 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that India's navy is 11 times stronger, its air force 5 times stronger and its armed forces 3 times stronger than Pakistan's. The spokesman said this when his attention was drawn to the statement by the Indian foreign secretary which was published in the Washington POST on 13 April. The Indian foreign secretary has tried to prove that the balance of military strength between India and Pakistan is basically in favor of Pakistan and that India decided to purchase its latest aircraft when it felt itself weaker than Pakistan. The spokesman said that this statement is totally baseless.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

BK161622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Apr 81

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that he had useful talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Foreign Minister Agha Shahi on various international issues and bilateral relations.

Talking to newsmen at the airport this morning prior to his departure from Islamabad following a day's visit to Pakistan, he said that views were also exchanged on the Afghanistan issue and the Middle East situation. The two countries hold identical views on these issues and other international issues.

He said that various resolutions which were adopted at the summit conference in the holy Mecca were also reviewed. Also, on the Iran-Iraq dispute, the Saudi foreign minister said that in view of the work done by the Islamic ummah peace committee for the solution of the problem, it is expected that it will yield results.

His attention was drawn to the statement made by the Indian foreign secretary in Washington regarding Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan. When he was asked whether he had raised the issue during his visit to New Delhi, he said that he had not seen the report. Foreign Minister Agha Shahi said on the occasion that the Pakistani Government has lodged a strong protest with the Indian Government for indiscreet language used concerning Pakistan. So far as the derogatory words against Saudi Arabia and the Arab Emirates were concerned, Arab diplomats have strongly criticised it and it is the duty of the two concerned countries to react to it. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has since arrived in Colombo to hold talks with Sri Lankan authorities.

BBC INTERVIEWS MURTAZA BHUTTO ON TERRORIST ACTS

TA191552 London BBC World Service in English at 1500 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] The eldest son of the executed Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Zulfikar 'Ali Bhutto, has said it was his organization which was responsible for hijacking a Pakistani airliner to Kabul, and then on to Syria last month.

Mr Murtrza Bhutto, who is general secretary of an ogranization known as Al-Zulfiqar, was speaking to our Delhi correspondent, Mark Tully, in the first interview he has given since the hijacked Tully asked him whether he knew anything about the operation in advance:

[Begin recording] [Answer] The hijacking came as a complete surprise to me. I had no prior knowledge that there was any plan to hijack a Pakistan airline. The hijacking was done by a member of our organization, Al-Zulfiqar, [words indistinct] he is a commander of Karachi division. People know his code name as Alam Gir, he took the decision on his own. It may have been motivated by several factors, I have not met him since the hijacking.

[Question] But you say that you were not responsible and yet you talk of the Al-Zulfiqar as your organization. What is your role in Al-Zulfiqar?

[Answer] I am the secretary general of Al-Zulfikrar. When I say that I am not responsible for the hijacking, I mean in the sense that I did not plan it. I was not aware of it, it came as a surprise to me.

[Question] But how can it be that there can be an organization of which you are the secretary general and yet you don't know of a major operation like a hijacking?

[Answer] Because Al-Zulfiqar is an independent organization, it is an underground organization; it operates secretly. Its commanders, our members, do not have total access to me all the time. We therefore give them authority to conduct actions on their own initiative. Every action is not directed by me. Since the assassination of General Bhutto at least we have conducted 54 operations. It is not possible for each member to come to me with a blue print and get my authority.

[Question] Were you in Kabul at the time of the hijacking?

[Answer] I have no fixed address. Often (?there is) in newspapers about criminals in England and the police says that so and so has no fixed address. I have no fixed address, I can't go back to Pakistan. I travel in the Middle East, I go often to London and I do go to Kabul. It's coincidentally I happened to be in Kabul, for rest I go there to get away from work for a few days; I happened to have been there coincidentally; yes I was there.

[Question] But there are reports that you have a headquarters of Al-Zulfiqar in Kabul and that Soviet officials and Soviet support was given at least to the handling, to the management of the hijack.

[Answer] No, as I said that the hijacking came as a surprise to me, for it follows axiomatically that it came as a surprise to everybody else involved.

[Question] But do you have headquarters in Kabul?

[Answer] No, our headquarters are not in Kabul. We have some presence there. Our headquarters are not there. Our headquarters are in Pakistan itself. [end recording]

$200 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR PURCHASE OF FOREIGN OIL

LD181212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureua report, the Council of Ministers held a session this morning under the chairmanship of Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During this sesssion, which began at 0600 with a recitation of verses of the glorious words of God, political issues of the day and the coordination of decisions connected with government employees in the war zones of the country were raised. According to this report, during today's session of the Council of Ministers the suggestion by the Oil Ministry and the Plan and Budget Organization with regard to meeting fuel needs was approved; thus, $200 million will be placed at the disposal of the National Iranian Oil Company for the purchase of foreign kerosene, gas oil and engine oil.

The report says: An exchange of views took place pertaining to the country's expenditure during the first 2 months of the current year, and it was stipulated that the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Plan and Budget Organization should display some haste with regard to utilizing the budget possibilities for the first 2 months of the current year.

During today's session of the Council of Ministers, the commerce minister put forward suggestions with regard to utilizing the opportunity for the release of government goods from the country's customhouses.

NABAVI ON IMPORTS, U.S. ASSETS, OTHER TOPICS

LD192210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Behzad Nabavi, government spokesman and minister of state for executive affairs held a press, radio and television interview. He answered questions from Iranian and foreign correspondents on various subjects. Concerning the $56 million which was spent on arms, and which was stolen, the minister said: During the imposed war, Iran has felt the need for ammunition and equipment. These were to be acquired from certain sources such as companies, not governments. A deal was made with a company. It was agreed that the Iranian Embassy in Spain would confirm shipping of the acquisition and then the Paris branch of Bank Melli would put the money into the company's account. He added: However, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Spain approved the deal prior to scrutinizing the dispatch documents. Anyway, the subject is under investigation and the charge d'affaires in question is in Iran and will be giving his explanation of the issue. On the other hand, the Iranian Government has lodged a complaint on the matter of the $56 million. The money has been blocked and a court is investigating.

On the rural services project, the minister said: The subject was approved by the Cabinet during their session on Wednesday. It has been agreed that a joint headquarters be formed of the respective ministers and the reconstruction crusade. This organization will also be responsible for implementing the project. All village services will be given by the reconstruction crusade. He added: The headquarters will coordinate all the services of the government and revolutionary organizations in villages and all operations will be through this organization.

The minister referred to the release of the hostages and the Algerian accord and said: It has not been long since those developments, and the U.S. Government cannot under any pretext invalidate the Algerian accord approved by the two governments. This would be unacceptable from an international point of view and it is natural that our brothers are very active on this matter. He added: I can say that things are moving forward and some of the results will be announced in the next few days. He also referred to the freezing of Iranian assets in the United States. He said: Some of the money that was to be returned will be delivered to us by 20 July.

Another amount--around $3 billion--has already been handed to us and thus some of the accounting problems have been solved. God willing, we will not have any problems in this respect.

Mr Nabavi talked about purchasing fuel from abroad and said: We were forced to import fuel oil and kerosene from abroad because of the imposed war and lack of production by the Abadan, Kermanshah and other refineries. We needed foreign currency for this.

On the subject of rumors about the resignation of the government, he said: The Western sources that publish such rumors are willing this to happen. However, I announce that the government has no problems that it is unable to solve. God willing, and with the aid of the population, all the problems will be solved one after the other. At the present time, and compared to the beginning of its work, the government is stronger. As time passes, the brothers in charge become more determined. They have reached the conclusion that there is no reason for any weaknesses. I announce that there is no basis to the rumor of the government's resignation.

More on Oil Imports, Trade

LD191726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Interview of Iranian Government Spokesman Behzad Nabavi by unidentified Central News Bureau correspondent on 19 April in Tehran--recorded]

[Text] [question indistinct]

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As the dear compatriots are already aware, as a result of this imposed war certain parts of the country's oil-producing refineries have been destroyed. In this regard one may refer to the Abadan refinery and the Kermanshah refinery which are unable to produce [word indistinct]. The fact is that we do have certain requirements and shortages so far as gas oil, kerosene and engine oil are concerned. This is a shortage felt by one and all. People probably thought that the fault was in our failure to distribute the supply properly, or that perhaps there was an adequate supply but we did not make it available. However, this $200-million purchase demonstrates that there does exist a shortage forcing us to import from abroad. As for the delivering and shipment of this quantity of kerosene, gas oil and engine oil in the country, there are certain (?differences). Obviously, this allocation does not cover the entire volume of our imports; there will be more. This is merely part of our allocation until such time as the country's 1981-82 budget is approved, when the next stages will be implemented.

[Question] What measures has the government taken in regard to the nationalization of foreign trade?

[Answer] The Ministry of Commerce (?has set up) groups which, I can say, are busy all the time because the government (?has given them) a deadline. [Words indistinct] God willing, in a month's time or within the next few weeks, the result of the activities of these groups will be made public to our compatriots. [passage indistinct]

[Question] We have been informed that $56 million [words indistinct] and there has been a fraud. [passage indistinct]

[Answer] There has been a lot of hullabaloo in this connection, as it was an (?important) issue. We intended to raise this issue in the press and the other mass media as little as possible, but since it has already been raised, we have no alternative but to explain: To provide for necessities of war the Iranian Government needs to obtain certain goods from abroad. As we do not have connections with governments in these fields, we obtain these items from some institutions.

One such occasion was this $56-million deal with an (?arms-producing) company. [Words indistinct] the Iranian Embassy in Spain report. In other words, it had been arranged that when the embassy received a report on their transfer, it would authorize and make the payment. Unfortunately, the payment was made earlier [words indistinct]. At the same time Bank Melli of Iran in Paris (?made a payment to that company). The case is being litigated in the courts. The $56 million have now been confiscated. [Words indistinct] is in court and the Iranian Embassy [words indistinct].

[Question] Could you tell me where this court is, in Iran or...

[Answer] No, the Paris court. [sentence indistinct]

More on Frozen Assets

LD191254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Bureau report, Mr Nabavi, the government's spokesman, participated in a press conference this morning and answered questions put to him by domestic and foreign correspondents.

Regarding the demolition of the houses which had been built on the Karaj road he said: To prevent chaotic building of houses, the real estate agents were reminded several times that the houses had been built under electricity pylons, which is extremely dangerous to the residents and not a right thing to do. They were offered land in other places and free building materials. These people did not accept it. He added: Of course, the information received had revealed that those who had attempted this action were some building contractors rather than oppressed people; because the oppressed know that the revolution also has standards and that there must be discipline. As numerous violations were observed, the authorities had no alternative but to demolish the houses in order to prevent the violations.

In reply to a question on what developments have occurred regarding America's undertaking [ta'ahod] in exchange for the release of the hostages, he said: It was felt that the U.S. Government, by means of sabotage, wanted to violate the Algeria agreement: However, since America has undertaken it, and according to the regulations between the United States and Algeria and also international law America cannot violate the agreement, and since we have settled the dispute, all our deposits will be delivered by [22 June-22 July].

Regarding the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to Habib Chatti, secretary general of the At-Ta'if conferance, he said: Basically, the government must not adopt positions on the basis of news agency reports. In this instance the government took a position without checking on the report, and this was wrong. Even if PARS had reported this news item, the government would have had to contact the source and if it had not been denied then the government would have been able to issue the statement. I hope it will not happen again.

Regarding regulations concerning travel abroad, the government spokesman said: The regulations have been changed from 6 to 11 articles; passengers will be given as little currency as possible.

JUDGES FOR PANEL ON U.S. MEET ALGERIAN OFFICIALS

GF191609 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] The Iranian judges who will participate in the international panel to issue the final decree on financial and legal disputes between Iran and the United States were introduced to Algerian officials at the Algerian Embassy in Tehran today.

This has been announced by Foreign Ministry Assistant for International Affairs Brother 'Azizi. It is worth mentioning that there are 10 judges.

LEADERS ISSUE MESSAGES TO SOLDIERS ON ARMY DAY

Bani-Sadr Message

LD171814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Message by Commander in Chief Bani-Sadr marking 18 April Army Day--announcer-read]

[Text] In His exalted name. Let us begin this message, issued to mark 18 April, the anniversary of the founding of the new Iranian Army, with some quotations from Imam 'Ali--peace be upon his soul. He believed that a nation's survival depended upon its behavior in battlefields. He said God (?determined) the meaning of thanksgiving by our behavior on the battlefield. He has bestowed the realization of his own order on those fighting the holy war for the sake of God. Thus, your sublime values will be assessed in the extensive arenas of competition. Fates are determined in (?action) rather than in (?words). There are many decisions made in the day that disappear at bedtime.

What Imam 'Ali--may peace be upon him--says is an expression and the story of you men who are today fighting in battlefields, who make decisions and put them into action. Iraq's imposed war on us, although it has caused innumerable losses on our people and destroyed our towns and made their inhabitants homeless, has also created a competitive arena and established a furnace wherein evil has been distinguished from good, the impure from the pure and men of action from evil-doers. In this trial, and under extremely difficult conditions, you have demonstrated that you have left no room for doubt or procrastination.

Your perseverance during the difficult days of war and the martyrs whom you have presented to Islam have proved that you have resurrected the genuine Islamic values in founding a committed and popular army and that the entire rusted fibers of the monarchy have been totally eliminated. What you are doing is a living example of the adherence to the remark made by Imam 'Ali--may peace be upon him--that the tyrants will be vanquished while the oppressed will survive.

In this war, which enjoys strong leadership inspired by the sublime values, the importance of high morale acquired through resistance; the importance of initiative; the importance of responsibility; the importance of authority and sacrifice and [word indistinct] has been made clear to everyone, resulting in valuable experiences. Meanwhile, it opened valuable vistas of improvements in the army. God willing, having victoriously ended the war, these improvements will be speeded up. Our appreciative nation has now tried you; it now knows you quite well; it now believes that you will not spare anything for the sake of God or for safeguarding the homeland. Your efforts in creating an independent, popular army that is defending the right and monotheistic values without any dependence are being closely watached by the nation. The nation is solidly behind you in your decision to create an epic in Iranian history, an epic that could become a source of pride for future generations. You can see how our people are present in battlefields, watching your operations and appreciating them; you can see how they support you unreservedly.

I, who on the one hand witness your operations in the battlefields and on the other feel the realities among the people, am a witness to the miracle of the link between you and the people and this sacred unity.

I am convinced that a foundation has been solidly laid that will culminate in certain victory for you. You will leave something that will be remembered with gratitude by this nation's future generations.

Our nation will always (?remember) the martyrs given by the army, the [revolution] guards and all the forces fighting on the fronts; it will remain faithful to its covenant in continuing their path. Consequently, the nation sends its sincere greetings to their pure souls; it will look with respect at [word indistinct] and combative forces who have entered the battlefield with everything in their power. I pray to Almighty God for your perseverance and victory.

[Signed] President and Commander in Chief Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

Raja'i Message

LD171310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 81

["Text" of message from Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i to soldiers, NCO's and officers on occasion of Army Day]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: May I congratulate all army brothers, soldiers, NCO's, and heroic Muslim officers of the army of Islam on Army Day and beseech Almighty God to grant these valiant combatants honor and glory and the army of Islam victory over the forces of blasphemy.

On the third [as heard] anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, our pious, Muslim soldiers, marching shoulder to shoulder with the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran along the path of realizing the imam's wishes and the nation's expectations, are glorifying 18 April as Army Day. It is a day of the proud army of Islam when it is confident that the Iranian nation, at the behest of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, with hearts full of hope, sincerity and affection, are praying for their intrepid, self-sacrificing Islamic army.

The bond of brotherhood and love between the people and army in our Islamic homeland is seldom seen and is indeed matchless in the four corners of the world and throughout history, a bond that appears stronger and firmer than ever before with every passing day.

The deprived and meek masses of our homeland, who are the staunchest supporters of their Islamic army, are now fighting shoulder to shoulder and in step with their army brothers against oppression, bullying and world arrogance and are creating epics together. The army is now in the hearts of the people, who are witnessing self-denial for themselves and their sons on the fronts and in the trenches. Such close and sincere ties have only been achieved thanks to the tenets of Islam and the blessings of the Islamic revolution by Iran's Muslim nation.

Now, on the eve of Army Day, we pray that this bond of brotherhood between the people and the army remains constant. May God Almighty graciously grant victory to the valiant army of Islam in the war imposed on it. May our soldiers be able to bear aloft throughout the universe the liberation banner of Islam.

Rabbani Shirazi Speech

GF181850 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Homage was paid to the martyrs in Shiraz during special ceremonies on the occasion of Army Day. In these ceremonies, which started with recitations from the Koran, Rabbani Shirazi, member of the Council of Guardians, addressed families of martyrs, clergymen, commanders of military bases and Air Force garrisons, Islamic revolution guards and law enforcement personnel.

In his speech, he recalled that on the day the revolution took place in the army, the lackey army was transformed into a united army. We saw that the work of the army and the guards proved miraculous and astonished the forces of imperialism. By its bravery and sacrifice it displayed valor in confronting the infidel enemy.

Guards Corps Congratulates Army

LD180850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Statement by Public Relations Office of the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on the occasion of Army Day]

[Text] Today, the army is blessed with a powerful supporter and that is the nation.

The glorious, history-making Islamic revolution, in its anti-arrogance movement and in its battle against imperialist domination in the area, considers its armed forces to be a strong and powerful buttress for victory in its holy struggle. The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a popular armed force that, on the basis of its popular roots and its reliance on and pursuance of the canonist ruler, has been able to cast onto the criminal West's rubbish dump tens of thousands of U.S. advisers and mercenary agents and to retrieve its independent structure and Islamic entity as the soldiery of God. The army is now becoming one of the most independent and popular armies in the world.

On the war fronts today the blood of the self-sacrificing Army brothers and the self-denying guard brothers are mixed together, thereby bringing the glad tidings of the victory of Islam in its entirety over blasphemy as a whole.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps congratulates all the heroic and pious brothers in the Islamic Army--whether in the ground forces, the air force or in the navy--on Army Day and cherishes the hope that in accordance with its mission and its revolutionary, Islamic commitment it will be able to act increasingly coordinately and unitedly with our army brothers in pursuance of the directives of the imam of the Islamic nation, the idol breaker, on the battlefronts so that final victory might be achieved as soon as possible as a gift to our martyr-nurturing nation and to the world's meek.

Oh, God, turn us into your soldiers, for your soldiers are truly victorious!

ARMY REPLIES TO KHOMEYNI ARMY DAY MESSAGE

GF171720 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text of message by the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran in reply to Khomeyni's message on Army Day--date not given]

[Excerpt] Oh Imam! Accept the heartfelt greetings from your sons fighting on the front against infidelity. These greetings are the fruit of the blood of Islam's martyrs, blood that has rendered these greetings more effusive and fragrant, thus making them a source of life. Our hearts are throbbing with love, our blood is boiling and we are very happy to see your great heart flowing with contentment and your satisfaction over and support for the soldiers of Islam, conveyed by your warm words, your calls and your loud voice. Our successive victories against the enemies of God and the people are driving us to the final victory: the annihilation of infidelity in its various forms. This will be achieved by attacking the enemies with the eternal call of God is great in order to direct the final bullet against the chest of Saddam and his criminal masters, to finally purge our Muslim land of the stain of these aggressive criminals and to spread Islam's light to the world's oppressed.

We, the personnel of the Army of Islamic Republic of Iran, are always ready to receive the instructions of our imam and the orders of our sacrificing leaders. We pledge with the blood of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution that we will not stop supporting Islam and Muslims until all our blood is spent. We pledge with all our might to make Iran a beacon for all the darkness of the East and West in the hope of seeing the banner no God but God raised in all parts of the world.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MAHDAVI-KANI MEETS KHOMEYNI, COMMENTS ON TALKS

LD191159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] According to a PARS report [Minister of the Interior] Mahdavi-Kani, the imam's representative on the three-man committee [set up to resolve differences between various government organs], and Hojjat ol-Eslam Eshraqi, the president's representative on the committee, were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The report adds that Mahdavi-Kani, commenting after the meeting on the issues raised in the presence of the imam, said: While seeking his advice on the problems faced by the three-man committee, we asked the imam whether the committee is to investigate any offenses committed by the officials or only those which could result in tension. In reply, the imam said: You should attend to those cases which might result in tension, so as to create a climate of understanding between officials; investigation of other offenses is being dealt with by legal authorities like the Majlis, the office of the public prosecutor and so forth. Consequently, in the initial stages the gentlemen should refer their work to these same authorities. However, should certain cases emerge which, God forbid, might lead to the creation of an atmosphere of tension, then in such cases we shall act as judges and arbiters, endeavoring to calm the tension.

The interior minister then added: We also discussed with the nation's imam the issues facing the Interior Ministry. In reply to the question: On the eve of midterm Majlis elections, certain provinces lack governor general; what measures have been taken by the Interior Ministry?, Mahdavi-Kani said: We are trying to appoint governors general for those provinces which have none. We are also preparing ourselves for elections. He continued: The Majlis has already passed the articles. We are now awaiting the communication of these articles by the president so that they can, with God's help, be implemented.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES GOLPAYEGAN ULEMA, PAVEH CITIZENS

GF191558 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni received this morning a group of Golpayegan ulema and the imam's information office members in the region. Addressing the ulema, the imam said: You have to preserve this front and guide the people. He added: Ulema should carry out their assigned duties in a way that is satisfactory to the people. At the end of his speech he said: You have to guide people in the cities and villages and work hard against perverted rumors.

The imam of the nation also received a group from the (Akthariyeh) camp and a gathering of Paveh citizens.

RAJA'I CHAIRS 19 APR SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION

LD200802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that the country's Security Council held a session yesterday afternoon that was chaired by Mr Raja'i, the prime minister. At this session the commanders of the navy, the ground forces and the guards corps and the interior minister were present and the country's security affairs were discussed and reviewed.

MAJLIS DEPUTY SPEAKS ON U.S., IRAQI 'PLOTS'

LD191314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports that a preagenda speech was made at today's open session of the Majlis by 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, the deputy for Esfahan. Alluding to global plots against the Islamic Iranian revolution, he said: A few days before Reagan entered the White House, in the course of a meeting attended by Republican Party leaders, one of the Zionist participants stated that he had been in touch with Brezhnev, who also wished to see the government in Iran replaced. This Zionist faulted Carter, and said: We must rid ourselves of the Iranian Government.

Parvaresh, referring to the meaning of values, said: A revolution has taken place which defends values and is about all human values. He added: The enemies of the Iranian Islamic revolution, having opened political and military hostile fronts, having created internal strife and having brought about an imposed war, are attempting to thwart these dominant values. However, so far, the genuine path of the revolution has not been harmed by these plots.

He then added: Following the opening of this political-military front, yet another front, under the name of peace, has been opened. Iraq's motives in advocating peace are: First, to subdue the fighting spirit of internal strugglers in Iran and, second, to create despondency among world revolutionary movements and to weaken the very revolution itself, a revolution which protects values and is above human values. Then there is the motive to keep Saddam in power.

Concluding his speech, he said: Peace is propitious, providing the Iranian nation's legitimate interests are protected.

BANI-SADR DEPARTS ON KHUZESTAN INSPECTION TOUR

LD171704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] PARS reports that Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief, left Tehran for Khuzestan this afternoon in order to supervise the operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the war fronts and to inspect supply plants behind the front lines.

Meeting on Operations

LD180800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, the situation on the battlefronts was discussed during a meeting in Khuzestan Province last night which was attended by Mr Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the acting chief of the Joint Staff, a number of military commanders and two responsible heads of the Islamic revolution guards in Khuzestan, the measures and activities required to expel the aggressive, mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces from our country and to inflict further blows and losses on these mercenaries were discussed and the necessary decisions were reached.

Also, the participants in the meeting studied a report on the activities carried out during the past few days on the various battlefronts.

LEFTISTS REPORTEDLY RAID IRP DISTRICT OFFICE

NC180657 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Apr (AFP)--Some 200 demonstrators raided a district headquarters of Iran's clergy-dominated Islamic Republic Party this week, the party newspaper reported today.

They broke down doors, smashed windows and cried slogans like "The spies' nest must be closed", the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC paper said. It claimed some of the raiders belonged to a left-wing Islamic movement, the people's mojahedin.

The branch office itself--at Hamadan, 200 kms (125 miles) southwest of Tehran--said in a communique that the raid, on Wednesday, was staged by sympathisers of "Russian and American groups" in a bid to stir up trouble and harm Iran's war effort.

AFP: LEFTISTS, HEZBOLLAHI CLASH IN TEHRAN 17 APR

NC171225 Paris AFP in English 1212 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Apr (AFP)--Several Iranians were injured today after clashes outside a cemetery south of here between Marxist-Leninist Peoples Feda'iyan and Moslem extremists. The clashes were broken up by security forces.

The violence erupted as 2,000 to 3,000 leftists, emerging from a ceremony at the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery 30 kms (20 miles) south of "Hezbollahi" extremists in small groups.

Leftists who had got into buses were hit with stones and other objects, and others on foot were kicked and punched, according to first reports. Security forces intervened several times to restore order.

The cemetery ceremony, which was peaceful, was held to mark the sixth anniversary of the Tehran execution by the ex-shah's secret SAVAK police of nine "martyrs"--seven Peoples Feda'iyan and two leftist Islamic Peoples Mojahedin.

The Feda'iyan, seated on the tombstones at the ceremony, expressed strong criticism of "repression, torture and the incarceration of political prisoners."

They also called on "revolutionary forces" to fight to preserve democracy, "vital for the pursuit of the fight against imperialism."

18 Apr Clash

NC181645 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 18 Apr (AFP)--A leftist was wounded here today in clashes between Moslem mojahedin and conservative para-military revolutionary guards, eyewitnesses reported.

The incidents broke out when the conservatives tried to stop the leftists mojahedin from selling their banned weekly publication MOJAHED in the centre of the capital.

Several shots were fired but no one was hurt in the shooting, the witnesses said. The sole victim had broken ribs.

More than 200 leftists demonstrated for nearly two hours, shouting slogans against what they called the "club carriers".

AFP: SEVERAL INJURED IN TEHRAN HOUSING DISPUTE

NC190758 Paris AFP in Egnlish 0815 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran, 19 Apr (AFP)--Several people were injured in clashes in a north Tehran suburb on Thursday after residents tried to stop revolutionary guards bulldozing 600 homes built without permission under high tension wires, the daily ISLAMIC REPUBLIC said today.

Nearly 130 "provocateurs" were arrested during the violence, authorities in the nearby town of Karadj, 35 kms (20 miles) north of the capital, added.

According to earlier reports in another newspaper, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC--the newpaper founded by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr--revolutionary guards went into the suburb shortly before midnight with tear gas, firing in the air to eject residents of the 600 homes.

The residents subsequently blocked the Tehran-Karadj road for several hours the following day, in protest, today's later reports, in ISLAMIC REPUBLIC said. Drivers were only allowed to drive on after shouting "death" to Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Supreme Court President and Islamic Republic Party leader Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, the paper said, quoting authorities.

According to the authorities, the residents had several times been asked to leave the homes, but each time had refused an offer of alternative land several kilometers (miles) away.

YADZI WARNS JOURNALISTS AGAINST WRONGDOINGS

LD192208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] According to PARS Mr Yadzi, the spokesman for the three-man mediation team [investigating differences among Iranian leaders] in an interview discussed the various subjects under consideration by the team and said: Mr Bazargan was invited to a meeting to discuss the remarks made by Mr Raja'i about his speech and other matters. Fortunately, after extended discussions we achieved considerable understanding and hope that an increase in such understanding will stop any success by our enemies. [as heard]

Referring to other subjects discussed, Mr Yazdi said that journalists have been warned that should they commit any wrong action after the mediation team becomes official, they will be exposed to the people as well as be liable to prosecution. Fortunately, the majority of them have confessed to their wrongdoings. In another part of his interview, the spokesman for the mediation team referred to the discussions as positive and useful.

BAN ON PUBLICATION OF MIZAN REPORTEDLY LIFTED

NC200830 Paris AFP in English 0808 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Tehran, 20 Apr (AFP)--A ban on the liberal daily newspaper MIZAN has been lifted, two weeks after the authorities shut it down and jailed its publisher, staff on the paper said today.

The Justice Ministry confirmed that the April 7 closure order had been reversed, although the National Guidance Ministry said it had not received Justice Ministry documents needed to authorise further publication.

A spokesman for MIZAN's 120 staff said publication could resume tomorrow, pending permission from the National Guidance Ministry, which controls newspaper licenses.

NEPAL

ZIAUR RAHMAN'S KATMANDU PRESS CONFERENCE

BK171240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 17 Apr 81

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, 17 Apr (AFP)--Visiting President Aizur Rahman of Bangladesh told a pre-departure press conference here today that the proposed seven-nation South Asian regional conference was in no way directed against the Soviet Union.

Asked whether he had originated the idea of bringing together South Asian nations into an anti-Soviet front as a result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he replied: "The idea of the regional summit meet came long before the Afghan political development took place." Asked to comment on the machinery of the proposed conference, President Ziaur Rahman said: "It is premature to talk much about this machinery because... in a few days time we are going to have a secretary-level meeting on this in Colombo." "I hope that very soon there will be a meeting at the ministerial level where the aspect of the regional conference can be examined... and thereafter a meeting at the summit level could be arranged." he added.

He denied Indian press reports that his visit here was part of Dacca's diplomatic offensive to internationalize the Ganges water dispute and an "unfriendly act" toward India. He described his visit as purely "private and friendly."

When asked to comment on Indian press reports about Delhi's unwillingness to share the Ganges water on a trilateral basis, President Rahman said: I don't know since I have not read the news item that has appeared in the Indian press. I don't know the details, so it is not possible for me to say anything specifically on this." The Bangladesh head of state stressed that the River Ganges was an international river and that a joint approach should be taken by the three countries--India, Nepal and Bangladesh--for the benefit of all three nations.

Asked whether there would be a permanent corridor between Nepal and Bangladesh, Mr Rahman said: "I don't know. You are aware that there is now a facility for movement of goods between Bangladesh and Nepal and we hope that in future this would be further expanded." The visiting president described his talks with King Birendra as "friendly and cordial." He said that during his sojourn in Katmandu, he had discussed with the king bilateral matters and certain international issues, including the situation in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia and South Africa.

Asked to give his views on the United States move for an anti-Soviet security screen extending from Pakistan to Egypt, Mr Rahman parried the question, saying that he did not have all the information one would need to make comment on it. "Therefore, it wouldn't be appropriate to make a comment. I have been out of my country for two or three days, you know," he said.

The president assured that in the forthcoming South Asian foreign secretary-level conference the dispute on the Ganges water would not be raised. "There would be no point to discussing the Ganges water issue at the meeting," he added. President Rahman was seen off at the Tribhuvan International Airport by King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya.

KING BIRENDRA RECEIVES PAKISTANI, SAUDI OFFICIALS

Meeting With Riaz Peracha

BK181137 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Foreign Secretary Riaz Peracha has had a meeting with King Birendra of Nepal in Kathmandu. They discussed regional issues, areas of economic cooperation between two countries and matters of bilateral interest.

Peracha delivered a letter from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to King Birendra. The king expressed his deep appreciation for the close friendship and understanding existing between the two countries. He asked the foreign secretary to convey his very best wishes to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and from the people of Nepal to the people of Pakistan.

Earlier, Riaz Peracha had a meeting with Nepalese Minister of State for Commerce, Industries and Tourism Dr Ram Prashad Rajbahak. The discussions covered trade and tourism development and the establishment of air links between the two countries. They also discussed possibilities of joint ventures in Nepal.

Al-Faysal Granted Audience

BK171541 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Excerpts] His majesty the king granted an audience to Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the royal palace this afternoon.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal had arrived in Katmandu earlier today on a 2-day official visit to Nepal. Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi welcomed the Saudi Arabian foreign minister at the Tribhuvan International Airport. The military secretary to his majesty the king and heads of diplomatic missions were also present on the occasion.

At the airport talking to pressmen, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that he would make every effort to establish a firm basis for a close and significant relationship with Nepal. The prince was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Economic and Social Affairs Shaykh 'Abdallah 'Ali Ridha and Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Nepal Shaykh Fu'ad Abdul Hamid al-Khatib. Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi is hosting a dinner in honor of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud at the Sitalniwas royal guest house tonight.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS KATMANDU 18 APR

BK181710 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud left Katmandu for home this afternoon in a special aircraft at the end of a 2-day official visit to Nepal. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud was given a warm sendoff by Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi at the [words indistinct] at Tribhuvan International Airport.

Prior to his departure His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told newsmen at the airport that he was satisfied at the opportunity he had for consultations with the officials of the countries of South Asia. I am particularly happy with the talks I had in Nepal, his royal highness added. It covered almost all issues, including the question of Palestine, Middle East problems, Afghanistan, as well as matters of international importance, he added.

Referring to bilateral relations, the Saudi foreign minister observed: We are happy to note that friendly relations exist between Nepal and Saudi Arabia. We are convinced that areas of cooperation (?unstruck) so far exist between the two countries and we should pursue a wide range of relations for mutual benefit.

Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi later told newsmen that he was fully satisfied with the visit of the Saudi foreign minister, adding that vast possibilities of economic cooperation existed between the two countries. Development of transport, particularly roads and irrigational developments could be areas of such cooperation, he added.

Minister Shahi said during the talks the Nepali side had stressed upon the hardship facing Nepal owing to the shortage of energy as well as the possibilities of supply of [words indistinct] to Nepal. Saudi Arabia had assured Nepal that it will sympathetically consider Nepal's request to supply.

Earlier, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud called on Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in Katmandu today. His royal highness and the prime minister then attended a luncheon. On the occasion the two (?are understood) to have exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest as well as regional and international situation.

SRI LANKA

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH HAMEED

BK181423 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered a special message from King Khalid to President Jayewardene when he called on the president at Nuwara Eliya yesterday.

The prince, who flew to Nuwara Eliya by helicopter before leaving for Nepal, described his talks with Foreign Minister Hameed as very fruitful. He said they discussed all outstanding international issues of particular consequence to the two countires, among these issues were the situation in the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq war.

On Afghanistan, Price Sa'ud said that the two sides agreed that the nonaligned countries have a special responsibility to find a solution to the present situation. He said Saudi Arabia has great hopes that the Nonaligned Movement would again become an association that would serve the interest of the nonaligned countries and in this regard they have a special responsibility toward Afghanistan.

The minister said that Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka were in full agreement that a settlement could not be found without the withdrawal of Soviet troops and self-determination for the people of Afghanistan who should be able to choose their own government.

Prince Sa'ud said they hoped that the conflict between Iran and Iraq would be brought to an end speedily. Both Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia, he said, supported the efforts of the Islamic countries, the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations to bring about a settlement in the Gulf war.

Referring to bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia, Prince Sa'ud said he was happy about the state of development of these relations particularly in the last 3 years. Saudi Arabia admired the great economic strives taken by Sri Lanka under the present government and he had no doubt areas of cooperation between the two countries would further expand in the coming years. In this connection he said they had agreed to exchange visits to promote Saudi investments in Sri Lanka. Economic and cultural agreements between the two countries were also envisaged.